

Honorable Robert S. Lasnik

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT SEATTLE

CITY OF SEATTLE, a municipal corporation,  
located in the County of King, State of  
Washington,

Plaintiff,

vs.

MONSANTO COMPANY, SOLUTIA INC.,  
and PHARMACIA CORPORATION, and  
DOES 1 through 100,

Defendants.

No. 2:16-CV-00107

MOTION FOR A SIXTY-DAY  
STAY OF CURRENT DEADLINES

**NOTED ON MOTION CALENDAR:  
February 28, 2020**

File Date: January 25, 2016

Trial Date: September 14, 2020

Plaintiff the City of Seattle moves for a sixty-day stay of existing case deadlines to allow Seattle to retain new counsel. Defendants are considering whether they will agree to a stay.

Seattle's outside counsel terminated their representation of Seattle as of February 10, 2020. Wishik Declaration, ¶ 2. Since then, Seattle has been trying to resolve issues regarding the transition to new counsel, without success. *Id.* Seattle has tried to retain new counsel but cannot do so until those issues are resolved. *Id.*, ¶ 3.

1 On February 11, former counsel asked Seattle to sign a Notice of Withdrawal under Local  
2 Rule 83.2(3). Wishik Decl. ¶ 4. Seattle declined to sign because that Notice indicates that the  
3 withdrawal “will not leave the client without representation,” when, in reality, the withdrawal does  
4 just that. *Id.* Seattle anticipates that its former counsel will file a motion to withdraw very soon.

5 On February 19, Seattle conferred with Defendants’ attorneys regarding the need for a stay  
6 and learned that counsel for Defendants had not been informed by Seattle’s former counsel of the  
7 termination of representation. *Id.*, ¶ 5. Counsel for Defendants were, therefore, not ready to stipulate  
8 to a stay at the time this motion needed to be filed.

9 Seattle cannot litigate this complex case without outside counsel. Key deadlines, including  
10 the exchange of expert reports, are imminent. Once new counsel is retained, they will need time to  
11 get up to speed. Seattle respectfully requests a sixty-day stay of current deadlines.

12 Dated this 20th day of February, 2020.

13 PETER S. HOLMES

Seattle City Attorney

14 By: s/Laura B. Wishik

Peter S. Holmes, WSBA # 15787

15 Laura B. Wishik, WSBA #16682

16 **SEATTLE CITY ATTORNEY’S OFFICE**

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18 Attorneys for Plaintiff  
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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on February 20, 2020, I caused this MOTION FOR A SIXTY-DAY STAY and a PROPOSED ORDER and the DECLARATION OF LAURA WISHIK to be electronically filed with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system which will send notification of such filing to the e-mail addresses denoted on the Electronic Mail Notice List.

I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct.

DATED: February 20, 2020

By: s/ Laura B. Wishik  
Laura B. Wishik